MEDITATIONS

PROPER FOR

A TIME OF SICKNESS,

WITH

SUITABLE DEVOTIONS.

To which are added,

FORMS OF PRAYER

FOR EVERY

MORNING AND EVENING.

Is any afflicted, let him pray. JAMES v. 13.

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MDCCLXXI.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

HAD the pious and judicious Author of a little Tract, intitled, *Recovery from Sickneſs*, introduced it with *Meditations and Devotions*, proper for Perſons who would bear and improve aright this Diſcipline; the Author of the following *Meditations* would have been greatly pleaſed. As he did not, our Author thinks it better that this Omiſſion ſhould be ſupplied, though by an inferior Hand, than not at all. He is conſcious to have SINCERELY endeavoured the EDIFICATION and COMFORT of Perſons in Sickneſs; and therefore humbly commends theſe MEDITATIONS to their candid PERUSAL, and to the DIVINE BLESSING.

AND, that the religious Impreſſions made in Sickneſs might prove LASTING, and

and PRODUCTIVE of HABITUAL PIETY; he has added FORMS of DAILY DEVOTION, for thoſe who want this Aſſiſtance, and are willing to improve it.

MEDITATIONS

IN

A TIME OF SICKNESS.

CHAP. I.

Self-Examination.

THE GOD who gave me my Life, hath an undoubted Right to direct how it ſhall be employed. Whatever Bleſſings HE hath beſtowed upon me, HE only ſhould preſcribe the Uſe to be made of them. And as his Nature is moſt excellent, all that GOD requires muſt be ſuitable to that Excellence. But what am I? an imperfect Creature. Surely then a Perfect Sinleſs Obedience is not, and cannot, be expected from me. No: if I heartily endeavour to know his Will, and as heartily endeavour to do it. If I maintain an uniform, chearful and conſtant Obedience to all his Commandments; or when I have failed, ſpeedily and effectually repent; this HE will accept. Reaſon and the ſacred Scriptures confirm this.

Happy that good man, who could humbly appeal, *Judge me, O* LORD, *for I have walked in mine Integrity. I have kept the Way of*

the

the LORD, *I have not put away his Statutes from me.* Agreeable to this are the Declarations and Precepts of GOD's Word; *Walk before me in Truth and in Righteouſneſs, in Uprightneſs and Integrity of Heart. That you may be ſincere. You have obeyed from the Heart that Form of Doctrine which is delivered to you.* Examples of this are *Zacharias* and *Elizabeth*, who *walked in all the Ordinances and Commandments of the* LORD, without any wilful Exception. And *Nathaniel*, ſo much approved of our bleſſed SAVIOUR, as one *in whom was no guile.* Suitable to this the *Pſalmiſt* ſays, *Mark the perfect Man, and behold the Upright; for the End of that Man is Peace.*

'ASSIST me now, O FATHER of Lights, in 'the important Enquiry. Canſt thou not, O my 'Soul, comfortably witneſs to the Truth of this? 'Hath it not been my chief Aim to pleaſe 'GOD in my paſt Life? Doth not Conſcience 'teſtify, that no Motives have influenced me 'like this? When this was in Competition 'with any ſecular Views, have not theſe yielded 'to it? Thine Authority commanding, thy 'Goodneſs engaging me; the Fear of thy 'Diſpleaſure; the Hope of thy Favour, and 'the eternal Enjoyment of thee; theſe (one, 'more, or all theſe) have been my governing 'Principles. Theſe have in the general in-'fluenced me, more than a Regard to the good 'Opinion of Mankind; than Health of Body, 'or any worldly Intereſt, to be advanc d by 'my Conduct. Fixed in this pious Intention, 'haſt thou not, O my Soul, had Recourſe to 'the appointed Means of Grace, that thou

'mighteſt know what would be pleaſing to 'GOD? Haſt thou not rejoiced, as far as 'thou haſt known it; and ſtill aimed to know 'more of GOD's Will, as it relates to thyſelf? 'According to the beſt Knowledge I have 'attained, have I not applied myſelf to the 'Practice of what GOD requires (which is 'my Duty) without any deliberate Exception? 'Have I not done this in what is ſecret, 'known to GOD alone, as well as what is moſt 'open to the View of Men? In what relates 'to the Heart, as well as the Tongue and 'Life? Have I not (in my general Courſe at 'leaſt) endeavoured to preſerve an Harmony 'betwixt my Thoughts, Words, and Actions?'

'How reviving was this Satisfaction to good '*Hezekiah*, when he thought himſelf near the 'Gates of Death? How very great, when he 'made the humble Appeal, *O* LORD, *remember*, '*I beſeech* THEE, *how I have walked before* THEE '*in Truth, and with a perfect Heart, and have* '*done that which is good in* THY *Sight?* Equal 'Pleaſure muſt it have given to holy *Paul*, 'when, on having the Sentence of Death in 'himſelf, he ſaid, *Our rejoicing is this, the* '*Teſtimony of our Conſcience, that in Simplicity,* '*and godly Sincerity, we have had our Converſation in the World.*'

IF my Heart, upon ſerious and impartial Search, *condemns me*, what can I expect, but that GOD alſo will condemn me; not becauſe I am not *ſinleſs*, but as wanting *Sincerity*:—— Whereas if, upon humble Search, willing to know the Truth of Things, *my Heart condemns me not, I may then have Hope towards* GOD:—

Hope, not as if I had merited the future Reward, but founded on the gracious Promiſe, through CHRIST JESUS, of that ever faithful GOD, *who cannot deny Himſelf: Be thou faithful*, I read, *unto Death, and I will give thee the Crown of Life. The Gift of* GOD, HIS free Donation, *is eternal Life, through* JESUS CHRIST *our* LORD.

CHAP. II.

Doubts and Fears.

NOTWITHSTANDING this, are there not Perſons, whom, in a Judgment of Charity, we ſuppoſe, to be real Chriſtians, accepted of GOD in the REDEEMER, who have many Doubts and fearful Apprehenſions as to their future State; it is probable, there are ſome very uneaſy, becauſe they have not been as full of Spirit and Fervour in religious Duties as they deſired. Others, becauſe every Corruption is not entirely mortified; or, that they have not loved GOD and CHRIST to the Degree they would and ought: Imperfections theſe, of which good Men more or leſs complain. But, the chief Reaſon with moſt is, that their Faith hath gained ſo little Victory over the World;—and that frequent have been the Breaches in their Obedience.

FOR this it is highly probable, GOD ſometimes corrects, and withdraws the Light of his

his Countenance: And from hence may ariſe Doubts and Fears, as to our Happineſs in another World. This ſhould excite to greater Diligence in Religion, and a Reſolution to abound more in the Work of the LORD.

CHAP. III.

Hope of Pardon.

WITH this holy Reſolution of Soul, there is ſufficient Reaſon to hope for Forgiveneſs. Deſpair the ſincere Chriſtian ſhould not. Bleſſed be GOD, who hath ſent his own SON into the World to be a *Propitiation for our Sins.* Oh! how much am I indebted to him for this aſtoniſhing Love! How much, that HE hath ſent HIM to be my SAVIOUR.—How much am I indebted alſo to the SON of GOD, who, in Compliance with his FATHER's Will, undertaking to be my REDEEMER, hath ſo *loved me, as to give himſelf for me, an Offering and a Sacrifice to* GOD. I rejoice, that, upon my Repentance and Faith, I am *accepted* of GOD, *through the* BELOVED; in *whom there is Redemption through his Blood, the Forgiveneſs of Sins; according to the Riches of the Grace of* GOD, *in which he hath abounded in all Wiſdom.* I humbly hope, he accepts unworthy me; pardons all my Sins, from his infinite Mercy, through the Sacrifice of CHRIST, as of *a Lamb without Blemiſh and without Spot*; the LAMB of

GOD's own Appointment, *that takes away the Sins of the World.* His Diſciple, his Follower and Servant I am: and I rejoice, he is JESUS CHRIST *the Righteous*, my Advocate with the FATHER.——"Away then all diſmaying deſ-
" ponding Thoughts. In GOD, I hope,
" who is Love; who hath entered into a
" Covenant of Grace, ratified by the Blood of
" his Son. To his own Covenant ſurely he
" is not, he cannot be unfaithful: And to the
" Terms of it I reſolve, through the Aids of
" Divine Grace, to be faithful, even to the
" End of Life."

CHAP. IV.

Holy Reſolutions.

AS I now ſubmit to the wiſe and gentle Corrections of my heavenly FATHER, I am determined, ſhould Life be continued, through the Influences of thy SPIRIT, O my GOD, to ſpend it agreeable to thy Will. Oh! *teach me thy Ways, ſhew me thy Paths*; what, LORD, wilt thou have me to do? Of this thou knoweſt, from my Heart, I earneſtly deſire to be informed; it is the Bent of my Soul to pleaſe thee. I would *exerciſe myſelf*, from Day to Day, *in keeping a Conſcience void of Offence*, towards thyſelf and all Mankind. Whatever be my Station, whatever my Condition, I reſolve to behave in it, as thou doſt require me.

me. Whatever be my Relations, in the Family, or out of it, I am purpoſed, through the Aids of thy Grace, O my GOD, to perform the ſeveral Duties ariſing from them, with Chearfulneſs, Diligence, and Impartiality would I perform them. I would not preſcribe to Infinite Wiſdom what Precepts ſhall be given me. If different Virtues ſhould be required to be exerciſed at different Seaſons, I make no Objection againſt them; be it Contentment, or Uſefulneſs; be it Reſignation, or Truſt in Divine Providence; be it the *Work of Faith*, or the *Labour of Love*; or *Patience of Hope*; be it Meekneſs under Provocations, Forgiveneſs of Injuries, the ſtricteſt Equity to all, Honeſty in my Dealings, or Goodneſs to the Diſtreſſed. In theſe I reſolve, through Divine Aſſiſtance, to be making Improvements. Aid me, O thou GOD of all Grace, my heavenly FATHER, to be following after Righteouſneſs, Godlineſs, Faithfulneſs, Love, Meekneſs, Patience, *fighting the good Fight of Faith*, that I may *lay hold on eternal Life*.

CHAP. V.

Meditations under Diſorders.

O MY Soul, how thankful ſhouldeſt thou be for all GOD's Goodneſs to thee! How thankful, that I have enjoyed ſo great a Degree of Health, ſo much Eaſe, and ſo comfortable a Share of animal Spirits. The Want of theſe

ſhews

ſhews me their Value. May what I now feel teach me Gratitude to GOD for his Mercies, and Sympathy with thoſe that want them! To *weep with them that weep*, condoling with them under all their Afflictions—Support them, O GOD of Almighty Power and boundleſs Love—Fountain of all Conſolation, comfort them, and direct them to improve all Adverſity to their eternal Benefit!

EVER thankful I deſire to be for *that* Covenant of Grace, which now eſpecially yields me the Satisfaction that my Sincerity is accepted. *As a Father pitieth his Children, ſo the* LORD *pitieth them that fear him. He conſiders their Frame, he knows they are but Duſt.* Happy State! My Sins and Defects, truly repented of, are forgiven; entirely forgiven, through the appointed REDEEMER. Eternal Thanks, O my Soul, eternal Thanks for this aſtoniſhing Grace.

THINK again, what irregular Affections yet remain unmortified:—Be ambitious of acquiring a greater Power over thy Self, and be aiming continually at the increaſing Refinement of thy Nature. Be more frequent and importunate at the Throne of Grace than ever, and more watchful in every Reſpect.

THINK how valuable is Life! the Time, the only Time in which to prepare for a bleſſed Eternity.—How uncertain too is this! To how many Diſorders am I continually expoſed! and what an Alteration doth a Fever, Conſumption, or other bodily Indiſpoſition produce! The Body is pained, the Mind impaired, Paſſions ruffled. A very unfit Seaſon, to prepare for an happy

happy Eternity. No! it is the Time of Health in which I am to perform this.

THIS is alſo a Seaſon, O my Soul, for Patience and chearful Reſignation to the Divine Will. Learn of thy bleſſed REDEEMER; learn to be able to ſay it from thy Heart, "FATHER, "*thy Will be done*; *not as I will, but as thou* "*wilt.*" This Spirit it is equally thy Intereſt as thy Duty to maintain.

ART thou not alſo taught Heavenly-mindedneſs? On what ſhouldeſt thou ſet thy Affections principally, but on Things above? Every Enjoyment in this World, it is evident, is uncertain. And was it certain, thy Life may end in a Day, an Hour, or a Moment. Then, *whoſe are all thoſe Things* which thou hadſt poſſeſſed; which were, but never more will be thine? In the World to which thou art going, O my Soul, thou wilt have no Intelligence how Things are tranſacted on Earth,—what is done by thy Succeſſor; whether he improves or conſumes what thou didſt leave him. His Manner of Life will be entirely unknown to thee. Learn now to moderate thy Deſires to all preſent Emoluments, and purſue them with a becoming Indifference. Uſe this World as not abuſing it. Thy remaining Time will be ſhort: Secure an happy Immortality at all Events. Whatever is done or omitted, forget not, neglect not the one Thing needful.

CHAP. VI.

The true Chriſtian's Triumph over Death.

HATH what hath been juſt ſaid been thy chief Concern and Care; and is Death approaching? How great was the Delight of the good Apoſtle, *I have fought a good Fight, I have finiſhed my Courſe, I have kept the Faith*; (either pure without any human Addition, or I have been faithful) *henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteouſneſs, which the* LORD *the Righteous* JUDGE *will give me at that Day; and not to me only, but to all that love his Appearance.* Said an excellent Chriſtian, "I have ſerved the LORD faithfully from my Youth, have repented of my Sins, and believe I am pardoned; and am now going to a World of everlaſting Reſt, without the leaſt miſgiving. My Pains are great, but my Joys are greater. I am willing to die, but at thy Time, O GOD; for thine is the beſt Time." Said another, drawing towards the Cloſe of Life, "The Goodneſs of GOD is inexpreſſible." Said a third, "Come, LORD JESUS, come quickly; thou wilt come, thou wilt receive me to thyſelf."—And, Oh! how great the Privilege, that our bleſſed SAVIOUR went down into the Grave to reconcile his Followers to it! *Through* HIS *Death, he delivers them who were all their Life-time ſubject to Bondage.* How great our Happineſs, that HE triumphed over Death, burſt its Chains, and roſe out of the Sepulchre!

CHRISTIAN,

CHRISTIAN, thou who believeſt in JESUS, who loveſt him in Sincerity, who doſt heartily endeavour to keep his Commandments, and to imitate his Life; *think* of *this* with Pleaſure: Think of it with ſacred Extaſy. Death is no longer the King of Terrors; it is diſarmed of its Sting: It is become a Friend to the real Servants, the faithful Followers of the bleſſed REDEEMER.

'WELCOME Death, thou kind Deliverer 'from all bodily Pains and Diſorders; a De- 'liverer from all Uneaſineſs of Mind. From 'all that hath diſturbed my Peace; from 'Satan's Snares, the World's Temptations, 'and all Propenſity to Sin. Welcome Death, 'that openeſt a Paſſage to me into a State of 'Happineſs, perfect and eternal. Let others 'dread the Arreſt of Death; I thank my GOD, 'I rejoice in the View of it, through my dear 'LORD and SAVIOUR. It is my Heavenly 'FATHER's kind Meſſenger to releaſe me from 'all Manner of Evil for evermore: Let it 'execute its Commiſſion as ſoon as given. I 'wait the joyful Day; I rejoice, I cannot but 'rejoice, that *abſent from the Body*, I ſhall be '*preſent with* my dear LORD.'

CHAP. VII.

The future World of Happineſs.

WHITHER am I going? Whither will Angels, thoſe miniſtring Spirits to the Heirs

Heirs of Salvation conduct me? Unto the City of the living GOD—There is no Evil; nothing in the leaſt diſagreeable; nor ever will be. There ſhall I alſo enjoy all the Good I can deſire. My Knowledge will be without any Error; attained without Difficulty, or painful Enquiry—Enjoyed without any Obſcurity—be moſt ſuitable to my Underſtanding; contributing moſt to my Happineſs; and, I believe, be perpetually increaſing.

THERE my Will ſhall be eternally ſubject to the Will of GOD: Which is the Reſult of complete Wiſdom, Goodneſs, and Rectitude. There perfect Love will caſt out all diſquieting Fear.——Nor will this pleaſing Affection be through endleſs Ages diſturbed by Malice, Ill-will, or any malignant Paſſion whatever. Perfect Harmony reigns there without the leaſt Interruption. Peace, without any Contention. Humility, untainted with Pride or Vanity. Complete Meekneſs, and never the leaſt Provocation to Anger. In fine, conſtant Subjection of the whole Soul to GOD; and of all its Powers to the Dictates of boundleſs Wiſdom and Love. O delightful State! how much do I deſire it now! Each Faculty in right Order. No Rebellion in the inferior to the ſuperior Powers:—The Mind perfectly diſpoſed, as it ſhould be, towards GOD, to all other Beings, and to itſelf. Joyful Thought! never ruffled with any Paſſion, any Irregularity of Temper in itſelf or any other Beings: No! but complete Order will for ever reign, with the inexpreſſible Delight reſulting from it.

AND

AND now the Devotion is fervent and ſeraphick. The Praiſes moſt exalted. Ever-admiring, ever-adoring Thoughts of the Divine Benefits. GOD is Love; and the Soul dwells in, and is continually ſurrounded with Love.

THERE the ſacred Flame riſes to the once crucified, now glorified REDEEMER: The more I ſhall know of his Love, the more will my Heart be warmed with ardent Gratitude to ſo great a Benefactor.

THERE alſo ſhall I love my Fellow Saints as myſelf. My Eſteem and Complacency will be proportioned to their real Excellence and paſt good Services. To what was deſigned and done for GOD, and the Good of his Offspring; and what was ſuffered in his Cauſe, and with Submiſſion to his Will. How communicative will they be! "And how great thy Pleaſure, "O my Soul, in their Society, whoſe Bene-"volence is univerſal, whoſe Friendſhip is "ever faithful; and there the Joy of one will "be the Joy of all, though a Multitude not to "be numbered."

THERE ſhall I alſo converſe with the intelligent, benevolent, and holy Angels. They are now employed in good Offices; *miniſtring Spirits to the Heirs of Salvation.* How much more will they contribute to my Happineſs, by improving Converſation, and every beneficent Office? Bleſt Fraternity! delightful indeed, to join with thoſe bleſſed Spirits in Fervours of Devotion, worſhipping and adoring! GOD's Pleaſure they always do. This is *their* Happineſs, this will be *mine.* The Soul here reſts. This is Satisfaction inexpreſſible. From GOD

the Soul never ſwerves; and how great the Joy, that it will never have the leaſt Deſire or Temptation to depart! This muſt be Heaven! every Faculty perfected, enjoying the moſt perfect of all Beings, the great Fountain of all Excellence. Enjoying him in the neareſt and moſt endearing Relations, and as the Everlaſting Portion of my Soul. He is the Source of all Truth, and I ſhall know him from his Works: And the more I do, the more I muſt admire, muſt adore, reverence, praiſe, and reſemble him, and be fully ſatisfied with his moral Likeneſs.

HAPPY State this muſt ſurely be! It is indeed the Dignity, the higheſt poſſible Felicity of my rational Nature. Never more ſhall I, never can I queſtion GOD's Love to me, or mine to him. But *it does not yet appear*, probably it cannot now fully appear, *what I ſhall be*, or what I ſhall receive. Let it ſuffice, GOD is mine. At this Fountain-head ſhall I drink my Fill. Immortal Pleaſure will break in upon my Soul; and no Capacity of Bliſs and Joy but will be filled.

OH! how is my Soul delighted with the Scripture Repreſentations, though no Figures can juſtly deſcribe the Happineſs. This ſurely is an *Inheritance*. This a *Treaſure* by nothing leſſened: To the malevolent never a Prey. This is a *Kingdom* that deſerves the Name. Earth yields nothing like it. This is true *Glory unfading*—and *everlaſting* all this. O tranſporting Thought! Stretch forward, add Millions to Millions; add Ages to Ages: But remember, there is an Eternity beyond them. Figure on till

till Heaven and Earth be covered; and even this doth not include the whole. Take but a Drop from the Sea in a thouſand Years, it will at length be exhauſted, quite drained. Eternity hath no End.

EVERLASTING Thanks to the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, whoſe Goodneſs begets in us theſe rapturous Hopes, and will exceed our Conceptions, and riſe beyond all our moſt raiſed Expectations. *Bleſs the* LORD, *O my Soul*; *I will praiſe him whilſt I have any Being.*

NOR will I omit to give Thanks to my dear REDEEMER, *who loved me* unto *Death*, and *is the Firſt-begotten from the dead*; *the Reſurrection and the Life*; and who promiſes the Conqueror, that *he ſhall ſit down with him on his Throne.*

BUT, there is another joyful Circumſtance not tobe omitted; *As now I ſow I ſhall reap* hereafter. According to the Diligence of my Services, and the Improvement of my Talents, will my Reward be enlarged. This will be ſuitable to the Chearfulneſs, the Vigour, the Degree, the Conſtancy of my Obedience. To the Heights of Piety, and the Habits of Benevolence attained; the Increaſe of Love; the Good religiouſly done; and the full Bent of the Heart for more; which only for Want of Ability could not be done. It will correſpond to the Patience, the Meekneſs, the Forgiveneſs of Injuries, the Contentment cultivated on my Chriſtian Faith and religious Principles. "Surpriſing Love! aſtoniſhing Grace! This "is the Bounty of a GOD, the Fountain of "all paternal Affection." To my great De-

light I read, *As one Star differs from another Star in Glory; ſo will it be at the Reſurrection of the Juſt.* This Infinite Goodneſs promiſes, and Almighty Love will perform. Let me then ſow liberally now, and I ſhall reap liberally hereafter, throughout everlaſting Ages.

WELL, I am drawing towards the Period of this probationary State! this ſhort Life will ſoon end. Welcome Death! welcome Heaven! welcome Eternity! I reſign my departing Spirit into the Hands of my dear REDEEMER, with the greateſt Chearfulneſs! Rejoice, O my Soul; *Bleſſed are the Dead that die in the* LORD. *They reſt from* all *their Labours, and their Works follow them.*

WHAT now remains but Praiſe, eternal Praiſe to GOD, for all his Mercy and Grace? —*Bleſs the* LORD, *O my Soul, and let all that is within me bleſs his holy Name.* Shall I be perpetually increaſing in Knowledge, in Purity, in Love and Bliſs? Whilſt I live I will praiſe him; I will bleſs his Name whilſt I have any Being.

Forms of Prayer for every Morning and Evening.

A Morning Prayer.

O MOST great and glorious, moſt holy and merciful GOD, from thine heavenly Throne, look down upon me thine unworthy Creature, who in the Name of thy dear SON, the great MEDIATOR, begs Leave to approach thy ſacred Preſence. I deſire with all Humility to adore thine infinite Excellencies, and to offer up this Sacrifice of unfeigned Praiſe, for the innumerable and unmerited Bleſſings thou haſt conferred upon me. I thank Thee for my Being. I praiſe Thee, who haſt formed me a rational Creature; who haſt given me Capacities to know and adore Thee; to love and worſhip, to obey and enjoy Thee. Bleſſed be thy Name, gracious FATHER, that I live in a Land of Goſpel Light, am deſcended from Chriſtian Parents, and was early dedicated to Thee. I praiſe Thee, whoſe Goodneſs hath followed me every Day and Hour of my paſt Life; who haſt protected me from Evil; haſt provided for the Supply of my Wants; and given me Kindred, whoſe Favours I have largely experienced. I particularly thank Thee for the Mercies of the laſt Night, and for the Degree of Health, and the many other Bleſſings I this Morning enjoy: Above all, I praiſe Thee for all ſpiritual Bleſſings, in and through CHRIST JESUS, thy beloved

SON, my dear LORD and REDEEMER. That thou didſt ſend him into this World, to be my Inſtructor, to teach me the Nature of true Religion; wherein my true Happineſs conſiſts; and to direct me in the Way that leads to it. To make known the Terms of Forgiveneſs, and aſſure me of an entire Pardon of all my Sins, which thou art ready to grant, on my Compliance with them. I praiſe Thee for the promiſed Influences of thy Spirit, to purify my Heart, and for all the Purpoſes of the Divine Life, and all Glory to thy Name, that Life and Immortality are brought to the cleareſt Light in the Goſpel of thy SON. *Bleſs the* LORD, *O my Soul, and all that is within me, bleſs his holy Name!*—I do moſt ſincerely praiſe thee, for thoſe excellent Precepts which are deſigned to promote the Dignity, Perfection, and Happineſs of my rational Nature; and for all the Means and Advantages I enjoy, to raiſe me to the Love and Reſemblance of thyſelf, the moſt excellent of all Beings. I adore thee, that thy dear SON hath fulfilled all Righteouſneſs, and given me a perfect Example; and that thou haſt ſet him forth to be a Propitiation for our Sins. That as he died, he is riſen again, the Firſt Fruits of them that ſleep. Bleſſed be the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, that by his Reſurrection from the Dead, I am begotten to the Hope of Life eternal. That he is aſcended into Heaven as my Forerunner, and gone to prepare a Place for me: That he is made Head over all to the Benefit of his Church; and thou haſt exalted him to be my PRINCE and SAVIOUR. I adore Thee,

Thee, that he is conſtituted my Advocate with Thee, and that he will come again at the great Day, to be glorified in his Saints, to be admired in them that believed, and to be the Author of eternal Salvation to all who have obeyed him.— So great, O LORD, is thy Goodneſs to Mankind! ſo aſtoniſhing thy Grace and Mercy to unworthy me! I will extol Thee, my GOD, and I will bleſs thy Name for ever and ever.

BUT, whilſt I conſider thy Benefits, I would with Shame and Self-abhorrence, confeſs my Ingratitude and Diſobedience to thy Precepts, though they are all holy, juſt, and good. With Contrition of Heart, I acknowledge, I have ſinned againſt the Light and Grace of the Goſpel; againſt the Convictions of my own Mind; againſt the Checks of Conſcience and holy Reſolutions; againſt the moſt gracious Promiſes, and moſt awful Threatenings of thy Word. I repent unfeignedly of all my Sins; and reſolve, through the Aids of thy Grace, to forſake them. O mercifully pardon all my Offences: Thou who art Love, and haſt manifeſted it in ſending thy only-begotten SON into the World, that we might live through him. O FATHER of Mercies, accept me in JESUS the Beloved, in whom there is Redemption through his Blood, the Forgiveneſs of all Sins, according to the Riches of thy Grace, in which thou haſt abounded in all Wiſdom.— I would as earneſtly deſire to be ſanctified by thy Spirit, as juſtified in the Name of thy SON.

O THOU Fountain of Knowledge, enlighten my Mind: GOD of all Grace, purify my Heart, and renew a right Spirit within me.

Raiſe

Raiſe all my Faculties to their true Excellence, and delineate thine Image upon my Soul.—— I am, O LORD, without thy Help, unable to maintain my Integrity in the preſent State of Trial; ſtrengthen me with Might in the Inner Man, by thy Spirit, I humbly and importunately intreat thee. May I never be ſeduced from my Duty by any deceitful Allurements whatever. Let no ſinful Pleaſure entice, no worldly Advantage bribe me to do what is evil in thy Sight. Root out of my Heart, moſt holy GOD, all Pride and Uncharitableneſs; all Envy, Malice, Hatred and Revenge; Senſuality and Avarice: And never ſuffer me, O my GOD, to be led away from Thee and thy Will, by the Courſe of this World. Give me ſuch clear and affecting Views of thy ſupreme Excellence and Glory, as may kindle in my Soul a Flame of Divine Love, which may be continually increaſing. Penetrate my Heart with ſo deep a Senſe of thy Mercies, as may fill it with the warmeſt Gratitude, and fix my humble Hope and Truſt in Thee for all Futurity.

O THOU GOD of the Spirits of all Fleſh, whoſe tender Mercies are over all thy Works; diſpoſe me to love all Mankind as myſelf, and do to others as I might reaſonably expect they ſhould treat me, in the like Condition and Relations of Life. Endue my Soul with that Wiſdom from above, which is pure and peaceable, gentle and meek, full of Mercy and good Fruits. May I be clothed with Humility, and poſſeſs that Chriſtian Diſpoſition with which thou art ever well-pleaſed. Help me to rejoice with them that rejoice, and condole with others

in

in Adverſity. Incline my Heart, O thou forgiving GOD, to overcome the evil Conduct of my greateſt Enemies, with beneficent Offices to them. Teach me, great FATHER of all, to imitate thy univerſal Goodneſs. Incline my Heart to embrace the whole human Race; and to ſpread among all around me whatever Good I am capable of doing. And may I increaſe in Love and Benevolence, till I am fitted to be removed into that bliſsful World, where Peace, Concord, and the ſincereſt Friendſhip reign for ever, in full Perfection.

ENABLE me alſo to govern my Appetites and Paſſions; and may I enjoy that inward Compoſure and Serenity, which is the happy Conſequence of Chriſtian Self-denial, and the right Government of myſelf.

O eternal GOD, who liveſt for ever and ever, enable me to work out my Salvation with religious Fear. Impreſs my Heart with a juſt Senſe of my own Frailty, of the Brevity of Time, the Uncertainty of my Life, and the Certainty of that endleſs Eternity which ſucceeds it; that I may apply myſelf to the Practice of true Wiſdom. Grant me Grace ſo to live, as will yield me peculiar Pleaſure in a dying Hour. May I be daily preparing for my Latter End; that in what Manner, or at what Time ſoever Death may ſeize me, I may finiſh my Courſe with Joy, and enter into the everlaſting Kingdom of my LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

BLESS all Mankind, I humbly beſeech thee, with the Goſpel of thy dear SON. Continue all thy Goodneſs to theſe Kingdoms, and render us a grateful and obedient People. Bleſs all our Governors;

Governors; and, may the Miniſters of thy Word, by taking Heed to themſelves, and to their Doctrine, and continuing therein, ſave their own Souls, and the Souls of them that hear them. Bleſs all my Kindred, may they be holy to thyſelf! eternally reward my Benefactors. Forgive my Enemies, turn their Hearts, and ſave their Souls. O moſt compaſſionate FATHER, grant to the Afflicted all neceſſary Supports and Comforts: And teach them to make a right Improvement of every adverſe Diſpenſation of thy Providence *.

ACCEPT, moſt gracious GOD, theſe my moſt humble Praiſes and Prayers, in the Name, and through the Mediation of thy SON, my dear REDEEMER and ADVOCATE, through whom I would conclude my Addreſſes; praying, Our FATHER, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be THY Name, THY Kingdom come, *&c. &c. &c. &c.*

An Evening Prayer.

HOLY, holy, holy LORD GOD Almighty; thou art of purer Eyes than to behold Iniquity: Yet, ſuch is thy Goodneſs, Thou giveſt the greateſt Encouragement to Repentance. To the moſt flagrant Offenders Thou art pleaſed to promiſe, that if they confeſs and forſake their Sins, they ſhall find Favour with Thee. I, thine unworthy Creature, deſire, with all Humility, to preſent myſelf before thy

* Note, here the additional Petitions and Supplications, proper for a Lord's Day-Morning, may be introduced.

Divine

Divine Majeſty, acknowledging my many Iniquities. I bewail, O LORD, that I have ſo much abuſed thy Goodneſs, in creating and preſerving me; but eſpecially that I have deſpiſed redeeming Grace. With Grief of Heart I confeſs, that I have contemned thine Authority, and violated thy righteous Commandments. My Sins are attended with many Aggravations, as committed againſt peculiar Light and Love; rich Diſplays of Divine Mercy and Patience; and the moſt encouraging Promiſes. I deſerve, O LORD, to ſuffer thy Diſpleaſure;—but, thou art gracious and merciful, ſlow to Anger, and ready to forgive truly penitent Believers. In and through CHRIST JESUS thou art reconciling the World to thyſelf, not imputing their Treſpaſſes unto them. Willing I am, thou Searcher of all Hearts knoweſt, to forſake my evil Deſigns and Ways, and to turn unfeignedly to thyſelf. I would alſo receive thy dear SON in his whole Character, and be taught, ruled, and ſaved by him.

HAVE Mercy upon me, O LORD, according to the Multitude of thy tender Mercies blot out all mine Iniquities. Refreſh my Soul with the delightful Senſe of thy Favour. In this, which I eſteem better than Life, may I be able to rejoice, through HIM, who was delivered to Death for my Offences, and is riſen again for my Juſtification. I yield myſelf to thee, holy FATHER, to be taught the Way wherein I ſhould go; to be ſanctified by the Influences of thy SPIRIT, and aſſiſted to conquer the ſtrongeſt Temptations from the World, as well as to ſubdue every corrupt Affection.

O THOU

O THOU beſt of all Beings, adorn my Soul with every pious, benevolent, and Chriſtian Diſpoſition. Produce within me that Faith, which is the Evidence of Things not ſeen; that Hope of everlaſting Felicities, which may purify my Heart; that Love to thyſelf which is ſupreme; that cordial Affection to my dear REDEEMER, from an Apprehenſion of the Obligations I am under to him, as may excite me chearfully to obey his Commands, and conſtantly to imitate his bright Example. And that diſintereſted Love to all Mankind, which works ill to none, and may prompt me ever to follow that which is good to all. Aſſiſt me, O my GOD, that I may be cloathed with Humility, and put on the Ornament of a meek and quiet Spirit. Diſpoſe me always to prefer the Delights of Piety, Virtue, and Goodneſs, to the Pleaſures of Senſe. And grant me that Principle of Chriſtian Fortitude, that Firmneſs of Mind, whereby I may adhere to the Cauſe of Righteouſneſs at all Events; and may preſerve a good Conſcience as I paſs through this tempting World. Raiſe my Heart above the Vanities of the preſent State, to the Happineſs of a better; of a State which infinitely exceeds this; and aſſiſt me in acquiring the neceſſary Qualifications for it. In the Exerciſe of thoſe Chriſtian Graces, and under the Influence of theſe Principles, may I be enabled to maintain a ſincere, uniform, chearful and conſtant Subjection to thy Will. Help me to trace the Footſteps of thy Providence, admiring and adoring Thee. May thy Word be my Delight, thy Promiſes my Support in all Caſes; thine Ordinances

Ordinances the uſeful Means of my Proficiency in univerſal Holineſs. And enable me, O moſt gracious FATHER, to be faithful unto Death, and then admit me into thy moſt deſirable Preſence, where are Fulneſs of Joy, and the moſt exalted Pleaſures for evermore.

ACCEPT, O Fountain of Goodneſs, my ardent Praiſes, for Life, for Reaſon, and all the Advantages of the preſent State. Accept my grateful Acknowledgments, particularly for my Preſervation through the Day paſt, and for the Supply of my Wants. Thou doſt feed and cloath me, and to Thee, O LORD, am I indebted for all that is Good. Eſpecially would I moſt ſincerely praiſe Thee, for my Redemption by CHRIST JESUS thy dear SON. For the new Covenant in his Blood, its delightful Promiſes, and moſt gracious Terms. I adore Thee for all the Means of my ſpiritual Improvement; for the Hope of eternal Glory, and of a Happineſs that will be proportioned to the Ardour of my Love, and the Diligence of my preſent Services. Increaſe my Gratitude, I humbly pray Thee: And enable me to live to thy Glory. In all Things to adorn the Chriſtian Doctrine; that I may rejoice in the humble Expectation of the promiſed Bleſſedneſs, till I am admitted to the complete Enjoyment of it.

BLESS all Mankind with the Goſpel of thy SON. Bleſs this Community, in a peculiar Manner; continue to us all our Privileges and Bleſſings, ſacred and civil: And may we ever be obedient to thy holy Laws. Bleſs all in Authority over us: Excite and direct them to

rule us in thy Fear. May all the Miniſters of the Goſpel, of every Denomination, be ſerious, exemplary, faithful, and ſucceſsful in promoting the Power of Godlineſs among Mankind. Regard, with tender Compaſſion, the Sick and Afflicted: Support and comfort them. Deliver them from all their Evils, in the fitteſt Seaſon. Enable them to improve in every Grace and Virtue, by their Afflictions; and may theſe work out for them an eternal Weight of Glory *. Preſerve me this Night from all Evil; grant me refreſhing Sleep: And favour me with the Light of another Day. Accept theſe my humble Requeſts and ſincere Praiſes, moſt gracious GOD, in the Name, and through the Mediation of CHRIST JESUS, my dear REDEEMER, through whom I would conclude my Petitions, praying, Our FATHER, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be THY Name, *&c. &c. &c. &c.*

To be added to the Firſt Prayer on the LORD's-Day Morning, after the Words, *Adverſe Diſpenſations of thy Providence.*

THOUGH Thou, O LORD, art exalted above the moſt perfect Praiſes of Angels and Seraphs, Thou doſt condeſcend to regard the Services of unworthy Mankind, when performed in Sincerity of Heart. I praiſe Thee,

* Here may be properly introduced, on a Lord's-Day Evening, the Praiſes and Petitions at the End, ſuited for that Seaſon.

O hea-

O heavenly FATHER, for the Appointment and Return of this Day; for the ineſtimable Bleſſings it brings to my Thoughts; and, that it is ſet apart for thy more immediate Worſhip. I would always eſteem it my peculiar Privilege to be thus employed. I deſire this Morning to make a ſincere and unreſerved Dedication of myſelf to Thee. Determined through the Aids of thy Grace, to glorify Thee all the remaining Days of my Life. Help me to worſhip Thee in Spirit and in Truth this Day. May my Reverence of Thee be profound! my Repentance ſincere! my Faith in a lively Exerciſe! and holy Affections ſtrengthened, and increaſed in my Soul. Enable me to join with the ſolemn Aſſembly of thy People in every Ordinance, with pure and fervent Devotion! And, from happy Experience, may I be able to ſay, It is good for me to draw near to thy Throne of Grace. Aſſiſt, moſt Holy GOD, thy Miniſters in the faithful Diſcharge of the Duties, they are this Day to perform; may all be done to their own ſpiritual Benefit, and of all who attend on their Miniſtrations! Eſpecially would I fervently pray, that my Kindred, as well as myſelf, may have delightful Converſe with Thee; and may we grow up in all that is pious, virtuous, and good, till we are qualified for the Devotion of a more pure Society, with whom we ſhall worſhip Thee in Perfection.

GRANT theſe Things, beſt of all Beings, through CHRIST JESUS my dear REDEEMER, who died for my Sins, and is riſen again for my Juſtification. To whom be Glory and Dominion, everlaſting.

To be added on the LORD's-Day Evening, at the End of the Words, *An eternal Weight of Glory.*

THOU, who acceptest the sincere, though imperfect Services of us thy rational Creatures, hear and mercifully answer the Petitions, which have been this Day offered up to Thee. Accept my sincere Thanks for the Means of Grace, and the Advantages I enjoy, to help me forward to an infinitely better World. Accept my Praises especially, for the sacred Opportunities vouchsafed me the Day past: Pardon, O FATHER of Mercies, all the Defects attending my religious Services. Bless to my spiritual and eternal Benefit what I have heard. Assist me in forsaking every evil Way: Assist me particularly, in keeping myself from my own Iniquity. Grant me the Influences of thy SPIRIT, most gracious FATHER, whereby I may be built up in my most holy Faith, and be constant in doing thy Commandments. May I have such clear Views of thine Infinite Goodness, displayed through my merciful REDEEMER, as to love Thee above all, and delight in obeying thy Will. Inspire my Soul with an ardent Zeal for thy Glory, and the Advancement of the Interest and Kingdom of my blessed LORD. I would be continually aspiring at a nearer Conformity to thine Image, and to the Likeness of thy dear SON; and be holy in all Manner of Conversation. Under a just Sense of the Obligations I am under for redeeming

Grace,

Grace, may I be going on towards Perfection. And, when my probationary State ſhall end, may I be admitted into that World of perfect Light, Purity, and Bliſs, which is graciouſly promiſed through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Spread the Goſpel of CHRIST, I humbly beſeech Thee, through the World; and may real Religion every where prevail. May the Inhabitants of theſe Lands be eminently virtuous, and entirely devoted to thy Will.

PRESERVE me, the following Night, from all Evil, gracious FATHER; give me refreſhing Sleep; and, in the Morning of another Day, may I awake full of thy Praiſes, and Purpoſes of a chearful and conſtant Obedience to thy holy Precepts. I aſk all, through CHRIST JESUS, my dear REDEEMER: To whom be Glory and Dominion. Amen.

FINIS.

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